

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Cassandra Swain on 12 December 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended, for clarity, in the last paragraph from "the pressure part control unit is disposed in the fixing stand" to --the pressure part control unit is disposed in the fixing stand and is in contact with the living organism when the fastening band fixes the living organism between the fixing stand and the sensor unit--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the apparatus of claims 1-10, including, *inter-alia*, a pulse wave sensing device comprising a sensor unit with a pressure sensitive part and means for applying pressure to press the sensitive part against a subject, a fixing stand to hold the subject in a desired position, a band connecting the sensor unit to the fixing stand, and a control unit configured to control

the sensor unit that is disposed in the fixing stand and adjacent the subject when the band fixes the subject between the fixing stand and sensor unit.

O'Sullivan (US Patent 5495943) discloses a pulse monitoring device comprising a fixing stand adapted for fixing a living organism in position (elements 50 and 60); a sensor unit movable with respect to the fixing stand and adapted to be positioned on the living organism when the living organism is positioned on the fixing stand (element 10), the sensor unit comprising at least one pressure sensitive part (element 12), and a pressure part for pressing the at least one pressure sensitive part against the living organism positioned on the fixing stand (element 30); a fastening band connecting the fixing stand for fixing the living organism between the fixing stand and the sensor unit (element 52)' and a pressure part control unit for controlling the pressure part, where the pressure part control unit is attached to the fixing stand (Figure 6; elements 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, and 74), but is not disposed within it or in contact with the organism.

Hashimoto (US Patent Application Publication 2004/0010199) also discloses a similar pulse wave measuring device, but Hashimoto's controls are contained within the sensor unit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patents 6491647 to Bridger, 6447456 to Tsubata, 6344025 to Inagaki, 5743856 to Oka, 4561447 to Kawamura, 5551437 to Lotscher, and 2002/0077558 to Itonaga, which disclose similar inventions.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen E. Toth whose telephone number is 571-272-6824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor, II can be reached on 571-272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 3735

//Robert L. Nasser Jr//
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3735

/K. E. T./